



Vol. 1, Issue 1, Spring 2001



Jackie L. Currie
City Clerk and Chairperson of the
Election Commission

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE
Downtown Office
200 Coleman A. Young
Municipal Center

Citizen Information Service
224-3270

Citizen Radio Patrol Program
224-3270

City Council Support Services
224-3266

Municipal Code & Ordinance
224-3270

The Department of Elections
2978 W. Grand Blvd.

Administration
876-0222
Equipment,
Management and Support
876-0237

Registration
876-0190
Training
876-0253

Project Vote, Voter Outreach
876-0107

CITY OF DETROIT
Dennis W. Archer
Mayor

DETROIT CITY COUNCIL
Gill Hill
President and Vice Chairman

Maryam Mobley
President Pro Tem

Nicholas Hood, III

Alberta Testley-Talabri

Clyde Cleveland

Shelia M. Cockett

Kay Everett

Brenda M. Scott

Kenneth V. Coker, Jr.

Phyllis A. James
Elections Commissioner

Detroit City Clerk, Department of Elections and Detroit Hospitals bring voting convenience to patients

Jackie L. Currie, Detroit City Clerk does not want the voting rights of any registered voter to be disenfranchised because of ill health or because the voter is hospitalized. To ensure that patients are given the right to participate in the electoral process, she is reaching out to various area hospitals with this noble initiative and they are all embracing the idea. PROJECT VOTE - an arm of the Detroit Department of Elections, delivers and picks up ballots from hospital patients, as well as, other Detroit residents who are unable to vote in their assigned precincts on election day, due to age or a medical condition. The Department of Elections and the City Clerk, Jackie L. Currie extend their appreciation to the community and all the hospital staff, especially Henry Ford Hospital's, Candy Collins Adams, for supporting and making this initiative, a resounding success.



Detroit City Clerk, Jackie L. Currie talks to patient Vernon Alexander at Henry Ford Hospital.

A message from
Detroit City Clerk,
Jackie L. Currie:



Detroit Department of Elections Delivers Again!

Our commitment in serving the Citizens of this City will continue to be second to none. Mrs. Jackie L. Currie, Detroit City Clerk stated. Yes, people may not have faith in believing that the system works. That may be in other cities, but here in Detroit, the election system is strong, guarded and transparent as seen in a recently concluded recount here in Detroit. The election administration here in the City was once again exonerated.

Detroit residents witnessed on November 7, 2000 one of the largest voter turnout in the City's recent history. While other large Cities wrestled to meet these challenges, it was just another election day in Detroit. Yes, Detroit has the largest number of voting precincts in the State (669); serving over 600,000 registered voters.

What we are reading or hearing about the election situation in Florida should be an eye-opener to help our citizens understand the level of responsibility that this Department shoulders. This will help the citizens, especially our elected officials, begin to appreciate the immense contributions that the employees of this Department are making, to keep the principles of Democracy healthy, here in our City. Post election debriefing meetings reveal opportunities to work towards improving the processes. We evaluate our performances internally and develop a plan of action to help us improve the process in future elections. Our commitment to you is to continue to serve you in administering effective and efficient

TIMETABLE OF SCHEDULED PRIMARIES AND ELECTIONS TO BE HELD IN THE CITY OF DETROIT IN 2001

**Primary
or Election:**

CDC Election
April 3, 2001

Primary Election
September 11, 2001

General Election
November 6, 2001

**AV Ballots may be
requested after:**

January 17, 2001

June 27, 2001

August 22, 2001

elections that you as a Detroit resident will continue to be proud of, election-after-election. To all the men and women of Detroit's Elections Department who go above and beyond the call of duty in bringing pride to this City, election-after-election, especially, over 6000 Detroit residents who work the polls, thank you for a job well done.

The City of Detroit Department of Elections is unique in its role as part of the City structure because it holds the key to the doors of democracy which is the bedrock of this Nation. This Department has a mandatory obligation to the residents of this City. This mandate cannot be changed, postponed, or even cancelled. On Election Day, this Department must administer the election in the City of Detroit.

The City of Detroit is made up of six hundred and sixty-nine (669) voting precincts and it takes in excess of six thousand poll workers to successfully conduct each major election. This operation requires long term strategic coordination, organization, planning, control and effective execution. The success the Department has received for meeting this constitutional mandate every election is not magical or mystical. It is a result of hard work, dedication and diligence of the men and women of the Elections Department who go beyond the call of duty in serving over 600,000 eligible Detroit voters. In this first edition of our Newsletter we would like to introduce you to the City's Department of Elections organizational and management hierarchy.

**Jackie L. Currie**Detroit City Clerk & Chairperson
of the Election Commission**Gloria C. Williams**

Detroit Director of Elections

**Isa Azzouz**Detroit Deputy Director of
Elections**Vernon Allen**

Detroit Deputy City Clerk

**Rachel Jones**

Tabulating Division

**Betty Brunson**

Voter Registration Division

**Ralph Rayner**

Administrative Services Division

**Sean Smith**

Corporate Support Division

**Abe Cherry and
Dr. Eloni-Eloni Wilks**

Project Vote Coordinators

Assistants to the City Clerk

**Daniel Baxter**Special Project and Absentee Ballot
Division

Photography by Jennifer West

**Arthur Whiting**Equipment Management Services
Division

POLL WORKER QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

by Edwin Ukegbu

Q. I will be working the poll on election day, but my voting precinct is different from my working precinct. How can I vote?

A. Request an absentee ballot application from the Department of Elections. Complete the application and return it. When your application is processed, an absentee ballot will be mailed to you.

Q. If the ballot tabulating machine (Optech 3 P-Eagle) breaks down during the voting process, how will the voters vote?

A. Call the Department of Elections, unlock the auxiliary bin, lift up the flap and ask the voters to place their voted ballots in the auxiliary bin. These ballots stay in the bin until the polls are closed. If the problem is rectified, remove the ballots from the auxiliary bin and process accordingly. If the problem is not corrected before the polls close, rubber band those unprocessed ballots and place them in the transfer case and make a remark in the poll book concerning the ballots in question.

Q. I received information in the mail from the Secretary of State's office, stating that my address on my voter registration card has been changed to reflect the same resident address as shown on my drivers license. I did not authorize that change and I would like to know who made that decision.

A. The decision was made by the legislature. A new law (Public Act 118 of 1999) was enacted on April 1, 2000. If the resident's address on voter's drivers license is different from the address on the voter's registration card, the Secretary of State is empowered to update both the drivers license and voter registration card addresses to be the same.

Q. Who is in charge of the precinct? Chairperson, Co-Chairperson, Senior Chairperson or the quality assurance monitor?

A. The entire team in that precinct. However, the leader of the team, the chairperson, must be held accountable.

Q. How long shall I wait for my check after the election?

A. Between four to six weeks. However, we strive to process them earlier.

Q. I have seen some sixteen year olds working the polls. Is that legal?

A. Yes. But they must work in the company of adults as mandated by Michigan election law.

Forward your questions to:

Department of Elections News, at 2978 West Grand Boulevard, Detroit, Michigan 48202.

We will answer you in our next issue.

City's Department of Elections, Detroit Board of Education and NAACP: A formidable Marriage of Champions for voter registration crusade.

A visionary alliance was formed in April, 2000, between the City's Election Department, Board of Education and the Detroit branch of the NAACP. The purpose of this alliance is to strategically develop and coordinate voter registration drives in all Detroit's 250 Senior High Schools. During the inauguration of a committee set up to coordinate this initiative, Detroit City Clerk, Jackie L. Currie

informed the committee members that her goal is to ensure that all graduating seniors are given the opportunity to register before graduation date. She stated that she would make their voter registration cards available to their respective senior high schools through the Board of Education. The purpose is to present to them, their voter registration cards along with their high school diplomas, during

graduation. The meeting was attended by Detroit City Clerk, Jackie L. Currie, Deputy Mayor, also chairman of the Detroit Board of Education, Freeman Hendrix, Wayne County Commissioner, also the Deputy chairman of the Detroit Board of Education, Bernard Parker. Also present were representatives from Elections Department, NAACP, Board of Education and Detroit's Student Councils.



Dr. Elton-Zion Wilks at the Joseph Walter Williams Center for the Census 2000.

Vernon C. Allen, Detroit Deputy City Clerk, Spearheads the Election Ambassadors to wake the Sleeping Giants

The sleeping giants are the 18 to 35 year olds whose turnout during elections have been significantly low, based on precincts voting history in Detroit and across the Nation. How can we as a Nation begin to address this problem? Do we ignore this problem as if it does not exist? Can we afford the price of ignoring Democratic principles which is the bedrock of this Nation? Can our Democracy survive without the involvement of many of our young people? We are spending millions of dollars to educate young people about sex, teenage smoking, drugs, teenage pregnancies etc. All the efforts and money that are being spent to reduce or

eradicate these problems are worthwhile. But we have not done a good job as a Nation in educating the young people about the importance of voting and how it impacts their lives. Detroit City Clerk, Jackie L. Currie has recognized this problem and has decided to confront it head-on. Mrs. Currie recently stated before a group of concerned citizens that "Detroit should never complain about the things which we have the power to change". She has initiated many voter outreach programs that targets young people. Most notably, is the voter registration drive that takes place all year round where

Department of Elections staff visits local high schools to register high school seniors who are eligible or will be eligible before a scheduled election. She has a new election army called the Election Ambassadors that have aggressive door-to-door campaigns called community walks. The main goal of the Election Ambassadors is to reduce voter apathy among Detroit young people. Mr. Jeffrey Hunt who chairs the group has stressed the importance of this undertaking. He states that, "We have a vested interest in our future - we must begin to empower ourselves both politically and economically."



Greetings from the Desk of Detroit City Clerk, Jackie L. Currie:

This newsletter is the first edition of the Department of Elections effort to increase and improve communications between the department and the electorate in our city. As your City Clerk, let me take this opportunity to thank the more than

300,000 voters who exercised their right to vote in the November, 2000 National Election. In Detroit the voter turnout increased 100% over the general number of voters in most elections and demonstrates our collective ability to mobilize and

exercise our rights at the polls. Our Democracy works best when the majority of the governed participate in electing the people who will lead our government at the local, county, state and national levels. I would remind all of us that we

supporting this significant and serious constitutional undertaking. "We have given all necessary support within our means, to insure the accuracy of the count". Gloria C. Williams, the City's Director of Elections said.

During the 1990 Census, about four million people mostly urban dwellers, in the United States were missed or under-represented. Detroit City Clerk, Jackie L. Currie and Detroit Department of Elections worked hard to assist the Census Bureau with necessary statistical and human resources know-how, to guard or hedge the City from erroneous miscount.

Do You Know?

How to access City Government and who do you call?
Answer: Citizens Information Section, Office of the City Clerk if you do not know the city department you need to provide the assistance.

How to write elected officials?
Answer: Identify the office and what level of government you're representing. If you are unsure, contact the Citizens Information Section Office of the City Clerk, (313) 224-3279.

How to register to vote, Change of Address for voting purposes?
Answer: Contact the Department of Elections, (313) 830-0799.

If you have any questions about the Detroit Election News, or if you have comments or suggestions about this newsletter, please write:
Elton Murphy, at The Department of Elections, 2174 W Grand Blvd., Detroit, MI 48202, or call (313) 836-0232.

Citizen Radio Patrol



The Citizen Radio Patrol Administrative Division congratulates the Department of Elections for developing this newsletter and providing us with an opportunity to submit an article. The Citizen Radio Patrol is a community program administrated by the Office of the City Clerk and the Crime Prevention Unit of the Detroit Police Department. The primary focus of the program is to support community efforts to increase and improve public safety in every neighborhood across the city.

The Citizen Radio Patrols are the eyes and ears of their communi-

ties and a majority of the Citizen Radio Patrols also increase public safety for children attending school by providing patrol services around the local schools in their patrol areas. We are looking for individuals and neighborhood organizations that are concerned with safety in the neighborhood including environmental issues that impact upon neighborhoods to contact us and consider becoming involved in a Citizen Radio Patrol Program. Please call us if you are interested in learning more about the programs at (313) 224-3270, or our hotline (800) 609-7487.

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS ABOUT THE VOTING PROCESS

Q. What is Optech 3P-Eagle?

A. It is Detroit's new voting system that reads and tabulates the ballot as you vote.

Q. How do you vote the ballot?

A. To vote the new ballot, draw one line to connect the head and tail of the arrow pointing to the candidate of your choice.

Q. When I vote my ballot, what do I do with it?

A. Take it to the Optech voting machine. The inspector assigned will remove the ballot stub from your ballot. You will be directed to insert the ballot into the ballot reader. If the Optech accepts your ballot, you can leave. If your ballot is rejected, an inspector will direct you further.

Q. Who inserts the ballot on the Optech voting machine?

A. You, the voter.

Q. Can I give my ballot to the inspector to insert on the Optech voting machine?

A. No. You must insert your own ballot into the Optech voting machine.

Q. What happens if I over-vote (voting for more than the number of candidates specified for an elective office)?

A. We strongly advise that you read your ballot before you vote. However, if you over-vote your ballot, the Optech voting machine will reject your ballot. The system is equipped with error-detection features. If your ballot is rejected as a result of over-vote, you can request a new ballot or request further assistance from the poll workers assigned to your precinct.

City's Election Department prepares for poll worker training sessions

In readiness for the 2001 elections, the training division of the City's Election Department, is preparing to train over 6,000 election day workers.

The retraining program is a six week exercise. The training objectives are to adequately retool poll workers on precinct operations, handling problems, receiving voters as customers. The poll workers also receive hands-on training on how the new computer ballot tabulation voting machines (Optech 3P-Eagle) are operated. The training session is one of the eligibility requirements for potential poll workers, and also mandatory for those already recruited.

We work hard to meet our precinct staffing needs prior to each election day; we recruit all year round. We need indi-

viduals with moral integrity and commitment, those that understand the seriousness of an election. Individuals who understand that this Department is the gate keeper to our Democracy and would help to keep this door wide open, attend or participate in the training sessions and actually work the polls on election day. If you want to contribute to the growth of this City or partici-



Detroit City Clerk, Jackie L. Currie honored Crockett Tech. Students

Detroit City Clerk, Jackie L. Currie recognized Crockett Technical High School students, who participated during the February 22, 2000 Presidential Primary, as poll workers. Certificates signed by the City Clerk, Jackie L. Currie and Gloria C. Williams, Director of Elections for the City of Detroit, were presented to these students during their induction into the National Honors Society.



During the presentation, the students were recognized and congratulated for their academic performances, as well as, their

enthusiasm in the well being of the City. They were also encouraged to keep the doors of democracy wide open by actively participating in the electoral process and by becoming well-informed voters. The students were also encouraged to take their academic work very seriously and strive to take their education further than high school.



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